DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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DID ALLEN DULLES PLAY FOOTSIE WITH NAZIS?

SS Documents recently discovered in nazi files claim that in 1943 Allen W. Dulles, today director of the US Central Intelligence Agency, "evinced anti-Semitic tendencies" and showed sympathy for National Socialism.

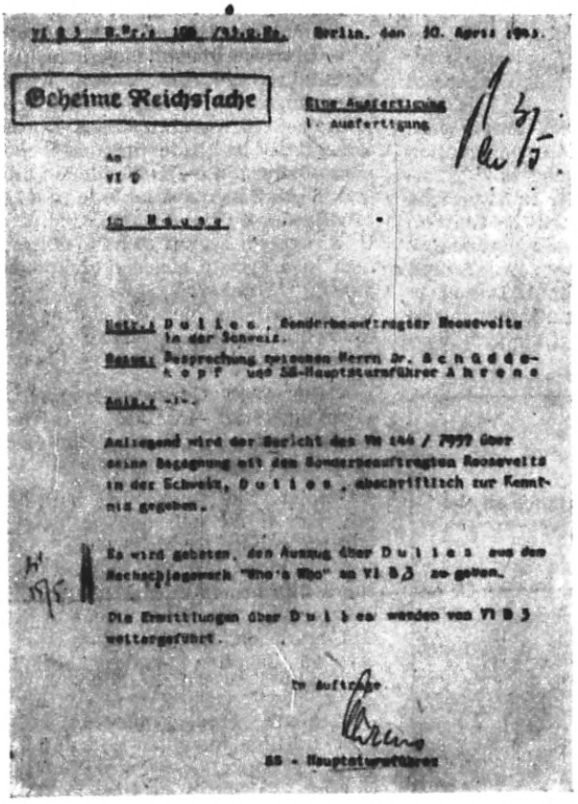
Extracts from the documents were printed in the Moscow magazine "New Times" No. 27 of July 1960. The American and British press made almost no mention of the Moscow disclosures, which came just after Mr Dulles had conducted top secret negotiations with Reinhard Gehlen, former nazi general, who today heads the West German espionage service.

The main document published in the Moscow magazine consisted of an SS report on a conversation in February 1943 between Allen Dulles, then US special emissary in Switzerland, and Prince Max-Egon Hohenlohe, a top-ranking nazi secret agent (Secret Service No. 144/7957), who had played a prominent part in the betrayal of Czechoslovakia to the nazis in 1938.

In the document, extracts from which are quoted below, Dulles is referred to as "Mr Bull", and Prince Hohenlohe as "Herr Pauls". The covering letter sent with the report to Department VI D of the Main Reich Security Office, a photostat of which is reproduced on this page, directly identifies "Mr Bull" as Dulles. Other documents in the SS files, and internal evidence in the report itself, show that "Herr Pauls" was Prince Hohenlohe.

Here are some extracts from the report, translated from the German original:

"Mr Bull is the most influential White House man in Europe . . . He has been given the task of exploring European, and especially East-European problems. He is a tall, power-



Geheime Reichssache

(translation)

VI B 3 No. 106/43. Top secret Berlin, April 30, 1943

Top State Secret

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To
VI D

Interdepartmental

Subject: Dulles, Roosevelt's special representative in Switzerland.

Reference: Conference between Herr Dr. Schüddekopf and SS-Hauptsturmführer Ahrens.

Enclosed: – 1 –

Enclosed herewith for your information is a copy of the report by No. 144/7957 on his meeting with Roosevelt's special representative in Switzerland, Dulles.

Please let VI B 3 have the item on Dulles from "Who's Who".

VI B 3 will continue to gather information on Dulles.

On instructions,

Ahrens

SS-Hauptsturmführer

fully built, sporting type of about 45, with a healthy appearance, good teeth, and a lively, unaffected and gracious manner . . .

"He received Herr Pauls very cordially, and the two established that they had already met in 1916 in Vienna, and between 1923 and (blot in the original, ed.) in New York. Mr Bull said he was very glad to see Herr Pauls again after all this time, and exchange ideas with him, as he had a clear head for European problems; he was fed up with listening all the time to outdated politicians, emigres, and prejudiced Jews. In his view a peace had to be made in Europe in the preservation of which all concerned would have a real interest . . . The German state must continue to exist, as a factor of order and progress; there could be no question of its partition or the separation of Austria . . .

"To the Czech question Mr Bull seemed to attach but little importance; at the same time he felt it necessary to support the formation of a cordon sanitaire against Bolshevism and Pan-Slavism through the eastward enlargement of Poland and the preservation of Roumania and a strong Hungary. He did not let himself get submerged in details, but expounded the view that an apportioned industrial production with assured markets would after the war be the best guarantee of lasting peace and understanding amongst the peoples. America, he specially emphasised, attached the greatest importance to the African market. Germany's claim to industrial leadership in Europe Mr Bull seemed quite to recognise. Of Russia he spoke with scant sympathy and remarked that that country possessed an adequately large domestic market . . .

"Herr Pauls now made a very sharp thrust on the Jewish question, and declared that any decent Central European would find it unbearable to think the Jews might ever come back again; people simply would not accept a return of the Jews and a re-establishment of their position of power. Herr Pauls intimated that he sometimes actually felt the Americans were only going on with the war so as to be able to get rid of the Jews and send them back again. To this, Mr Bull, who in the course of the conversation had clearly evinced anti-Semitic tendencies, replied that in America things had not quite got to that point yet, and that it was in general a question whether the Jews wanted to go back. Herr Pauls got the impression that America intended rather to send the Jews off to Africa.

"Mr Bull . . . agreed more or less to a Europe organised politically and industrially on the basis of large territories, and considered that a federal Greater Germany (similar to the United States), with an associated Danube Confederation, would be the best guarantee of order and progress in Central and Eastern Europe. He does not reject National Socialism in its basic ideas and deeds so much as the 'inwardly unbalanced, inferiority-complex-ridden Prussian militarism' . . .

"Then Mr Bull turned to the subject of National Socialism and the person of Adolf Hitler and declared that with all respect to the historical importance of Adolf Hitler and his work it was hardly conceivable that the Anglo Saxons' worked-up public opinion could accept Hitler as unchallenged master of Greater Germany . . .

"Mr Bull is in close touch with the Vatican. He himself called Herr Pauls' attention to the importance of this connection, for the American Catholics also have a decisive word to say. And before the conversation ended he again repeated how greatly Germany's position in American would be strengthened if German bishops were to plead Germany's cause there. Even the Jews' hatred could not outweigh that. It had to be remembered, after all, that it had been the American Catholics who had forced the Jewish-American papers to stop their baiting of Franco Spain . . ."

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Allen Dulles' recent meeting with West German spy chief Gehlen took place at the beginning of July. The American newsmagazine "Time" gave some scanty details in its issue of July 11th. At some future date, when the secret files of the West German intelligence have been thrown open, as the secret files of the SS have now been exposed to public gaze, GERMAN REPORT hopes to publish fuller details of what the two spy chiefs discussed.

Here are some extracts from the report in "Time" magazine:

"Somewhere in West Germany last week, two of the free world's top intelligence chiefs met in secret conference. One was pipe-smoking Allen Dulles, head of the U. S.'s Central Intelligence Agency. The other: shadowy Reinhard Gehlen, 58, head of West Germany's Federal Intelligence Service . . .

"As a career officer in the Wehrmacht, Gehlen had charge of intelligence on the bloody Eastern front . . .

"As the Allies closed in (at the end of World War Two, ed.) Gehlen looked to the future. Deciding that the U. S. and Russia would be the next antagonists, he selected 50 cases of important documents from his files, hid them in Bavaria. Then he ordered 30 key officers of his staff to go underground and wait for word from him. He himself holed up in a mountain chalet, and several weeks later marched down, surrendered himself to U. S. authorities. At the same time, he made them a proposition: he would make his hidden files and his staff men available to provide intelligence on the Soviet Union. The U. S. agreed, set up Gehlen and his men in a closely guarded compound outside Frankfurt. Exactly what Gehlen and his men did during the following years is still closely veiled . . .

"After West Germany became a sovereign state in 1955, the new government took over Gehlen's operation . . .

"Gehlen, like Dulles, has a rather professorial air. Of medium height, with a square, leathery face, blue eyes, a high forehead, outsize ears and a thin brown mustache, Gehlen's manner is a courteous blend of wit and erudition, but he has a steely core of devotion to duty and to Germany . . .

"Gehlen's group numbers some 5,000 fulltime members and another 5,000 occasional employees, all of whom refer to him as "der Doktor".

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'Youth Festival? -2 Years in Jail!'

Two former leaders of the World Youth Festival committee in West Germany were sentenced to jail terms on charges of "subversive and unconstitutional activities dangerous to the state" on August 1st in Dortmund, West Germany.

Guenther Hillmann, who had been executive secretary of the committee, was sent to prison for 24 months, two months longer than the public prosecutor had demanded. Klaus Steffen, one-time associate secretary, was sentenced to 18 months. A third defendant was acquitted.

The trial, which lasted over eleven weeks, was based on the fact that the defendants had encouraged young West Germans to go to World Youth Festivals held in 1953 in Bucharest and in 1955 in Warsaw.

Speidel Plans

In a visit to Washington on August 8th, Central Europe NATO Chief Hans Speidel, once nazi General Staff Chief in occupied Paris and the Soviet Union, revealed his present military plans in the following words:

"After the acceptance of the Federal Republic into NATO, the formation of the West German Bundeswehr (armed forces) and the introduction of tactical atomic weapons, our strength has increased so greatly that our present plans are to defend Central Europe at its easternmost frontiers. The new NATO strategy has changed over from a static defence on the Rhine to operations deep within the eastern extremities of Central Europe."

Raid Ban-Bomb Group

A summer camp at Hammelspringe near Hanover, attended by young A-bomb opponents from Britain, and seven visitors from the Germany, was raided by armed West German police on August 2nd. All present at the camp were questioned and the seven visitors from the German Democratic Republic were taken from their train during their return trip and held in jail for 26 hours.

A member of the British group, Mrs. Elizabeth Dales of Gillingham, Kent, told press representatives:

"We made no secret of the fact that we belong to the ban-the-bomb movement. A Herr Meyer, who said he is a school-teacher, turned up at one discussion and lost his temper.

"He said he fought for the nazis, would do so again, and left. I can only assume he told the police what we were discussing.

"They came this morning and behaved in such an arrogant manner that they reminded me of the nazis. They took the names of everyone."

The six young delegates from Democratic Germany, who had been officially invited to take part in the summer camp, were arrested in Luebeck on August 6th shortly before leaving West Germany. After repeated cross-examinations they were finally permitted to cross the border. The public prosecutor is planning to file charges of subversive activities against the summer camp leadership.

This picture shows just a part of the hundreds of West German army paybooks handed in to the authorities of the German Democratic Republic by West German soldiers who have left their units and come to Democratic Germany. The number of soldiers and NCOs who have "gone east" has increased greatly in the past few weeks, State Secretary Herbert Gruenstein of the Ministry of the Interior of the GDR stated in an interview on July 25th. "An even larger number of young men have come to the GDR to escape being called-up", State Secretary Gruenstein stated. "The number of such cases is so great that the West German Ministry of the Interior has had to issue special 'hue-and-cry' sheets with the names of tens of thousands of young men who have left their homes in order to avoid serving in the West German army."

NOTES ON SPORTS

World Cyclists in the GDR

The world cycling championships, held this year in the German Democratic Republic from August 3rd to 14th, ended in victory for the competitors from the host country and from Belgium and Britain. GDR cyclist Georg Stoltze, 29, won the amateur motor-paced title, and Bernhard Eckstein, also of the GDR, won the difficult amateur road racing championship — closely followed by Gustav Adolf Schur, who had won in both 1958 and 1959.

Mrs. Beryl Burton, 23, of Britain, successfully defended her 3000 metre pursuit championship and then went on to win the women's road racing championship as well at the Sachsenring mountain circuit in the south of the GDR. She was the only contestant to win two championships.

This was the first time the championships had ever been held in one of the socialist countries; the decision by the world cycling organisation to have one of its newest members run the championships was in recognition of the great successes achieved by GDR's amateur cyclists in earlier world contests and in the Bicycle Race for Peace held in May every year between Warsaw, Berlin and Prague.

The eleven prizes awarded this year included the titles for road racing and for track racing — motor-paced, sprint and pursuit. The latter were held in the cities of Leipzig and Karl Marx Stadt, both of which have first-class tracks which were further modernised and extended to accommodate the championships.

The interest of sports fans in the GDR for cycling was proven once more during the championships; an all-time record of 80,000 tickets were sold for the events in Leipzig alone, despite the prevailing rain and unusually cold weather and 150,000 watched the road racing events.

Other winners of the events included Rik van Looy of Belgium, who won the professional road championship, and other amateur and professional cyclists from Italy, France, West Germany and the Soviet Union.

Joint Olympic Team Picked

The big all-German Olympic team for Rome was finally agreed upon by the representatives of West Germany and the GDR after months of competitions in the different sport events and not a little wrangling. The West German sports officials had used all means to keep the GDR participation as low as possible, for reasons of prestige, but the final agreement was signed on August 9th in a spirit of compromise and fair play.

This was at least partly because of the good sportsmanship shown a few days earlier at the last competitions, one in West Germany and one in the GDR, where 47 West Germans and 46 GDR athletes ran, jumped or shotput their way to a ticket for the track and field events in Rome. Two high points had been a world record in women's broad jump by Hildrun Claus of East Berlin — 6.40 metres or just under 21 feet — and a European record of 23.4 seconds in the 200 metre sprint for women by Gisela Birkemeyer, also from East Berlin.

The great progress made in the field of athletics by Democratic Germany since the 1956 Olympics was shown by a comparison with the joint German team which went to Melbourne: in 1956 only 37 athletes from a total of 169 came from the GDR; this year 141 from a total of 332 are from Democratic Germany and 189 come from West Germany (two entries are not yet decided). The GDR won the majority of berths on the joint team in boxing, weight-lifting, cycling, swimming and diving and gymnastics. West Germany proved stronger in fencing, hockey, horseback events and boating events.

Trade Pact with Morocco

Morocco and the German Democratic Republic signed an official trade and payments agreement on a government level for the first time in East Berlin on August 8th. The agreement, which covered trade worth $4,100,000 in both directions, represented a 10% increase over trade in the previous year, which had been carried out on an inofficial basis.

The GDR will send Morocco machinery, electrical products, optical equipment, chemicals and textiles in exchange for Moroccan oranges, almonds, vegetables, sardines and phosphate.

The Moroccan delegation, which was led by Minister Abdellah Lamrani, spent 8 days in the GDR — included in the programme was a special study trip to one of the GDR's cooperative farms.

Plants to Cuba

Engineering works of the German Democratic Republic have received orders for the complete equipment for 15 factories to be built in Cuba, it was announced in Berlin on July 21st. Cuban technicians will arrive in Democratic Germany in the near future to learn to run the new factories.

Apart from providing all machines and equipment, the nationally-owned industry of the GDR will provide the necessary blue-prints and plans for the factory buildings, and will send to Cuba engineers and mechanics to get the factories into full production.

The factories to be built in Cuba include a radio receiver factory, which will build GDR-designed sets on licence, a can factory, and other light-industrial undertakings which will help to make Cuba independent of consumer goods imports from the United States.

More for Congo

East Berlin's city administration decided on August 10th to contribute 25,000 marks (about £2000) to the growing Congo Aid Fund. This fund, based on collections from towns, factories and private individuals, will be used to buy commodities needed by the people of Congo in their struggle to gain political and economic independence.

How to Run a Co-op Farm

By Allen Mann

An LPG (cooperative farm) in Democratic Germany may vary in size from ten farmers or less to a thousand farmers or more. It may be a "Type 1" farm, where only the fields are jointly owned, or a "Type 3" farm, where fields, meadows, most animals and farm equipment are also jointly used and owned. ("Type 2" — an intermediate form — has never become popular).

But some things are common to all of them. One of these common elements is the "Statut" or constitution. Every LPG has one. But then again, they differ greatly from one farm to another, since they are based on sample constitutions considered by the farmers when they first get together, but then hammered out, point by point, by the membership. They include all the rules and regulations for guiding the farm, for dividing up the cooperative income, for vacations, help for pensioned farmers and all the other problems.

Another thing common to the cooperative farms — which now include all of the farmers of Democratic Germany in their membership — is that they are run by the membership by means of regularly held "general assembly" meetings. These meetings vote on any application to join the LPG, they vote for or against any changes in the "Statut" and they elect an executive committee and a chairman to run things between meetings. They also approve or disapprove any actions taken by the executive committee and the chairman since the last meeting. The general assembly also chooses commissions of its members to deal with special questions. This means that a large number of the members are involved directly in running the farm at all times, even if they are not on the executive committee.

The chairman of an LPG is usually the best farmer in the area — the man with the most experience planting crops and breeding animals, but also with the leadership abilities needed to keep everyone working together in a cooperative way with as little friction as possible. However, some chairmen do not come from the area of their farm. The LPG may ask around, or even advertise, for someone who has a college education in agricultural science or other important qualifications.

Some of the farms, especially the larger, better established ones, like the "Friedrich Engels" LPG in Schafstaedt which I visited, employ a whole staff of book-keepers, a secretary, agronomists and other experts, who may or may not themselves be members of the farm.

There is one more important feature common to all these cooperative farms. This is a point which may sound unimportant to a city-dweller in some other country, perhaps, but to the people involved it is of the greatest importance. The members of the cooperative farms do not give up their land when they join, but remain in legal possession of their land and most of their inventory. That is not a technical point or legal quibble; if a farmer wishes to leave an LPG, or, what is more likely, if after his death his children are not interested in farming, they are entitled to the land they brought in or its equivalent in money. No farmer can demand to have exactly the same land back which he brought in, for if it is right in the middle of the cooperative fields it would then disrupt production; but he must be given the same acreage and quality land somewhere nearby.

All this means that the farmer who joins a cooperative farm puts his land and other possessions into a common, jointly-owned pool which is used collectively, but he remains the owner of it nevertheless. This is different from the situation in the Soviet Union, by the way, where all land was nationalised during the revolution and therefore the members of a kolkhoz (collective farm) there do not own their land directly as in the GDR.

But even in the more advanced "Type 3" farms, the members keep some land and a few animals for their own personal needs and as a source of additional income. The usual rules agreed on by the LPGs provide for ½ hectare of land (something over an acre), and up to two cows, two hogs, five sheep, plus the resulting calves, piglets and lambs, plus ten bee-hives and as many goats, poultry, rabbits or other small animals as they want.

The reason for this restriction is to avoid a tendency, common in the early days, for the members to get so involved in their own personal fields, gardens and livestock that they had little time, energy or interest for the cooperative work. But now the tendency is changing decisively. As the farms get more and more prosperous,

(cont. on next page)

Members of a newly-formed cooperative farm in Mecklenburg talking over some of their plans. The man with the paper in his hand is the tractor-driver. Second from the right is the chairman of the farm.

(cont. from front page)

the income from the cooperative grows and grows and farmers lose interest in the extra income from their own gardens and animals, which they then begin to look upon as an extra burden. Some are arranging to have their livestock cared for by the cooperative, but it will probably take a few years to see how this situation develops. It will depend upon the wishes of the farmers themselves, of course.

How and how much do cooperative farmers get in "take-home" pay? The answer to this question is fairly complicated, but farmers here are well-known for their mathematical ability, and the quick answers we got to questions on income showed that they have no problem in figuring out what they should receive.

After a year's harvest has been sold, the LPG adds up its total income and starts to make the necessary deductions. The first cut is to pay off interest and principal on government credits. Most farms take out credits for construction purposes and to improve their farms in all possible ways: the terms are extremely favourable and in many cases the government cancels these debts in order to help the farm grow and develop.

The next cuts from the total income go into a variety of special funds: one is to buy new equipment or pedigree breeding animals, another is for purchasing seed for next year's crops, a third fund is to support sick, aged or invalid members and then some money is always set aside for awards for special efforts by some of the members and for cultural activities.

When all that has been deducted, the remainder is divided up amongst the members.

First of all, they are paid according to the amount of land they brought with them when they joined (and those who came in without any land are granted a strip of land so that they are not too heavily handicapped). And secondly, they are paid according to the work they do. The proportion is usually as follows: in "Type 1" LPGs 40% of the income is divided on the basis of land shares and 60% on the basis of work; in the more highly developed "Type 3" farms, only 20% is based on the land they brought with them. In some farms, usually where most members used to have about the same amount of land, the general assembly has decided to pay its members only on the basis of work done.

In the early days of the LPG movement, payment was often the same for everyone. But soon difficulties developed on this score. As LPG Chairman Paizoni told us, when two men worked all day shovelling sugar beets (before they had the equipment to do the job), there were bound to be hard feelings if one shovelled 150 hundredweight and the other took things easy and only shovelled 50.

Arguments developed on other scores too. It was found that a man driving one kind of harvester combine could cover a certain number of acres in a day's work without difficulty, whereas a man with another inferior machine, try as he might, could not achieve the same results. If pay were based only on acreage then there were bound to be constant arguments every day as to who would get which machine.

The last problem was based on relative skill. There had to be some kind of financial incentive for a farmer to learn modern, scientific methods of keeping poultry or livestock, for example. Otherwise he or she would turn down opportunities to go off for special schooling and would never think of sitting up some nights studying. Learning new skills means exertion, and this had to be rewarded or there would be relatively little progress, experience showed.

That is where the work unit system came in. Every job on the farm is measured in work units — the more skilled or difficult the job, the higher is the work unit. For doing a relatively easy job which requires little skill, like cleaning up the farmyard, 8/10ths of a work unit are given for one day's work. For the more skilled job of weeding sugar beets, a full day's work (measured in acreage) gets 1.2 to 1.4 work units. The driver of a tractor or combine gets even more for a work day — ranging up to about 1.8 units a day. A commission of members rates these work units, but they must all be approved by the full membership assembly.

At the end of the year, after all other expenses and funds have been provided for, the remainder (comparable with net profit) is divided up on the basis of all the work units of all members. That means that if the year's total of work done adds up to 10,000 work units and there are 100,000 marks to be divided, then each unit will be worth 10 marks. A housewife who has had little time may have a total of 200 units — she gets 2000 marks. Another member who has added up 400 work units gets 4000 marks.

Actually, the farm does not wait for the end of a year, but pays monthly. It estimates the expected amount and pays somewhat less. Any differences are then ironed out at the end of the year.

But the farm does not only pay in cash. In addition, members get part of the cooperative crops — especially grain and potatoes. Some of this is for their personal use, most of it is to feed their privately-held livestock. What they make from the sale of the resulting meat, milk, wool and other products is an added supplement to their income, as mentioned earlier.

The yardstick of a cooperative farm's prosperity is the amount it pays per work unit. In the past, it was often necessary for the Government to help out an LPG with a credit so that it could pay the required 7 marks minimum per unit. At the "Friedrich Engels" farm, the value of the work units was only 3.50 marks and 1.50 worth of fodder in 1955. By 1957 it had reached 7.10 plus 1.07 marks worth of fodder and last year it was up to 9.10 (the fodder amount is now constant).

Chairman Paizoni told us that they are hoping to reach 11.19 marks this

(cont. at foot of next page)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Democratic Germany has set itself the goal of overtaking West Germany in per capita consumption of most important consumer goods by the end of 1961. Progress on the bread and butter level is shown by the following statistics — the latest annual per capita figures for both parts of Germany.

	GDR	West Germany
Meat (lbs.)	125.8	116.6
Fats (non-vegetable) (lbs.)	14.5	13.0
Fish (lbs.)	31.9	25.0
Eggs (units)	197	217
Milk (lbs.)	252.3	239.8
Butter (lbs.)	29.9	16.7
Cheese (lbs.)	9.2	9.9
Margarine (lbs.)	22.2	25.5
Sugar (white) (lbs.)	68.2	63.8

You Ask – We Answer

ANTI-FASCISTS IN CABINET

". . . You write in one issue of GERMAN REPORT that many members of the Cabinet in East Germany were anti-Nazis and were jailed or forced to flee during the Hitler period. Could you give more details on the subject — to help clear up hefty arguments among my friends." **L. B., Toronto, Canada**

GERMAN REPORT has already printed short biographies of the Cabinet Ministers in the GDR on several occasions; here is another listing, arranged according to their activities during the nazi years.

Five members of the Cabinet fought with the International Brigades in Spain during the 1930's: the most prominent of these is Deputy Prime Minister **Heinrich Rau,** 61, who is also the Minister for External Trade. Originally a metal worker, he became politically active early in life and was arrested by the Gestapo soon after the nazis came to power in 1933. He was able to escape to Czechoslovakia in 1935, and, soon after, he left for Spain, where he became commander of the 11th International Brigade. Then he was interned by the French till 1942, when he was turned over to the nazis and held in Mauthausen Concentration Camp till the end of the war.

Erich Mielke, 53, State Security Minister, also fought in Spain, as did **Erwin Kramer,** Transport Minister, who comes from a family of militant progressive railwaymen. **Ernst Scholz,** Building Minister, 47, another member of the International Brigades, joined the French Maquis to fight the nazis during World War II.

Heinz Hoffmann, 49, Minister of Defence, an engineer by trade, served in the International Brigades as Political Commissar of the famous Thaelmann Battalion of German anti-fascists.

Walter Ulbricht, First Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, did front-line work against the nazis on the eastern front. Born in 1893 and trained as a cabinet-maker, Ulbricht joined the socialist youth movement at the age of 15; he was a Communist Party deputy in the Reichstag from 1928 until 1933. After working in the underground, he was forced to flee by the nazis, who cancelled his citizenship in 1937. After the Wehrmacht invaded the Soviet Union, he broadcast across the front lines to German soldiers at Stalingrad and other battlefields, urging them to stop fighting for the nazis and cross over the front lines.

Many Cabinet members were arrested for their anti-nazi activities inside Germany. Prime Minister **Otto Grotewohl,** 66, a Social Democratic member of the Reichstag from 1925 to 1933, was jailed by the nazis for high treason in 1938. He escaped a second prison term in 1944 by hiding out till liberation in 1945. He then headed the Social Democratic Party in East Germany until it united with the Communist Party in 1946 to form the Socialist Unity Party.

Deputy Prime Minister **Paul Scholz,** 58, a representative of the Peasant Party and originally an agricultural labourer, spent many years in nazi prisons and concentration camps. Another Deputy Prime Minister, **Bruno Leuschner,** head of the important Planning Commission, was imprisoned in concentration camps from 1936 until the end of the war. His father, Social Democratic trade union leader Wilhelm Leuschner, was executed by the nazis in 1944.

Willy Rumpf, 57, Minister of Finance, spent five years in nazi penitentiaries and concentration camps. **Prof. Alfred Lemmnitz,** 55, who is Minister of Education, also worked in the anti-nazi underground until he was captured and imprisoned for nine years in prisons and concentration camps.

Dr Wilhelm Girnus, 54, originally a journalist and now State Secretary for Higher Education (with Cabinet rank), spent ten years in nazi jails and camps. **Ernst Wabra,** 53, Chairman of the State Control Commission, spent the entire nazi period in concentration camps.

Both **Willi Stoph,** 46, Minister for Coordination (a bricklayer by trade), and **Dr Hilde Benjamin,** 58, Minister of Justice, were active in the underground movement against the nazis. Frau Benjamin had been a lawyer in the progressive movement before Hitler, but being both a Communist and Jewish, she was barred from legal practice almost immediately after he took power. She worked for some years as a clerk and then was forced into hiding. Her husband, also a well-known lawyer before 1933, was killed in a concentration camp in 1942.

Other members of today's Cabinet in the GDR were forced to emigrate by the nazis. They include, beside those mentioned already, **Dr Lothar Bolz,** 57, the Foreign Minister, who was stricken from the rolls as a lawyer by the nazis in 1933 — he emigrated to Poland and later to the Soviet Union. **Karl Maron,** 57, now Interior Minister, worked in the anti-nazi underground until he was forced to emigrate to the Soviet Union where he published "Freies Deutschland" ("Free Germany") newspaper of anti-nazi Germans in the Soviet Union, in 1943 and 1944. **Alexander Abusch,** 58, Minister of Culture, emigrated to France where he helped compile the famous "Brown Book" on the nazi crimes. He then became editor of the illegal Communist Party newspaper "Rote Fahne" from 1935 till 1939; soon after, he was forced to leave for Mexico, where he was a leader in the anti-nazi refugee group there till the war was over.

The other ministers are: **Max Sefrin,** 47, Minister of Health and General Secretary of the Christian Democratic Union (of the GDR); **Kurt Gregor,** 53, a civil engineer and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission (under Bruno Leuschner), **Kurt Merkel,** 40, Minister of Supply, a former shop assistant, **Friedrich Burmeister,** 66, Minister of Posts, who was fired by the nazis from his post office job, and **Hans Reichelt,** 35, Agriculture Minister, who was a young farmer before he was drafted into the nazi Wehrmacht. Still a private, he was taken prisoner by the Red Army before he was 20, and it was in Russian prisoner-of-war camps that he made his first acquaintance with the anti-fascist movement.

(cont. from previous page)

year, and the crops look very promising indeed. The modern methods being used more and more will mean a constantly rising income for the farmers, and this is already resulting in more new homes, cars, furniture, TV sets and other appliances. The shortened workday makes it possible to enjoy these new benefits. All in all, the members of the co-operative farms, once they are past the first difficulties — and with every year, this happens more quickly — have an easier, better and more neighbourly life than they ever before dreamed possible.

(A further article on agriculture will follow in a later issue.)

GUEST NOTEBOOK

By Allen Mann

A little old lady of 78 who lives in the German Democratic Republic was surprised recently to receive a very heavy package from her sister in West Germany. She was even more surprised when she opened it — it contained nothing but potatoes.

The reason why her sister had sent her potatoes was not really so mysterious, however. West German journalists have recently started another wave of newspaper articles and broadcasts about "our poor hungry brothers and sisters in the Zone" — by which they mean the people here in the GDR. Here is the background and basis for this campaign.

Peas and Queues

It is unfortunate but quite true that standing in queues is still a common occupation here in the GDR. The problem is worst on Saturdays, when most people do their shopping for the weekend and for their big Sunday dinner, but there are also queues when new fresh fruits and vegetables come on the market again. (Then of course, there is the queue for tickets to plays by Brecht at the Berliner Ensemble theatre.)

When it comes to more expensive purchases — like TV sets, refrigerators and cars — a waiting list takes the place of a queue. A main reason is that the demand for all commodities — from steaks to station wagons — is always way ahead of supply in this country; due to rising wages, people have more and more money in their pockets, but prices instead of being very well up to such a situation as in any civilised western country, act contrary and go down. Production is rising by leaps and bounds, too, but it has never yet caught up with the growing demand.

Because of all this, and because of the new situation in the countryside, where thousands of new cooperative farms are getting on their feet, a new system of wholesale marketing has been tried out. Up till the present, this system has not achieved the expected miracles. Where I live, for example, although there have been lots and lots of string beans, cauliflowers, tomatoes and plums, there have been very few carrots or cucumbers — to name a few examples on both the credit and debit side of the ledger. This can be very exasperating indeed, and the newspapers here have been protesting loudly and angrily at the mistakes in this field.

But this problem has not the slightest connection with "starvation" — as a glance at the scales, almost tipping 200 lbs., shows me personally in a very convincing manner, I am afraid. (Indeed, one of the shortages mentioned in the press is that of stylish dresses for women in the "pleasantly plump" category.)

Here is what one reporter from the West German newspaper "Suedeutsche Zeitung" wrote in mid-July after a visit here:

"It became apparent after many discussions with residents of the Zone (the GDR — A. M.) that the opinion, still so prevalent in the Federal Republic, that you can impress these people today with bananas, oranges, 'genuine' coffee or television sets is very wide of the mark. It is true, the housewives often queue up at the fruit stands. There are bottlenecks. But they get strawberries from Denmark, blueberries from Poland, raspberries from Hungary and sufficient amounts of tea and coffee from China . . . There is whipped cream, ice cream and other things for the sweet tooth."

This was written by an honest journalist, who reported what he saw. But most West German correspondents searched the GDR press for any complaints they could find, cut them to fit, sewed them together and had a fine picture of "hunger and misery" as a result.

UPI Quotes Quotes

Then one fine summer day a reporter from United Press International got hold of one of these articles and translated it into English. He evidently felt that a story about food needs shortening if it is to be swallowed; indeed, he did some very clever shortening. Here are a few examples of a UPI man quoting a West German paper ("Die Welt") quoting a newspaper in the GDR.

UPI quote: "Housewives often ask fruitlessly for butter, sugar and other basic foods."

"Die Welt" quote: "Housewives often ask fruitlessly for butter, sugar and other basic foods in the grocery store at Kaesper Street . . ."

UPI quote: "When you take a hike or go on a picnic why can't you buy a cheese sandwich or smoked sausage at the snack bars?"

"Die Welt" quote: "Especially hikers and picnic-goers often want to buy a quick bite there but always have to be satisfied with a 'Bockwurst' (the favourite sausage here, like a 'hot dog' — A. M.). Why aren't they also offered rolls with cheese, smoked sausage, etc.?"

UPI quote: "Housewives were very happy when herrings were delivered to the shops July 22nd."

"Die Welt" quote: "On July 22nd the cooperative store at Karnin received a shipment of 'green' herrings (a popular type of salted herring — A. M.). All the housewives were very happy about the herrings, which are scarce in agricultural areas at this time . . ."

UPI quote: "What is being done to bring about an adequate supply of vegetables . . .?"

"Die Welt" quote: "What is the county council . . . planning to do to guarantee a proper assortment of vegetables . . .?"

Many of these changes and omissions are very small, it is true. But I think it is clear that their net effect is to take protests about individual stores or localities, or complaints that a wide assortment is missing, and make it seem as if everybody is starving — or, to quote UPI again: "Stories in the East German provincial press showed that right now Soviet zone pantries were almost bare." An "almost bare" faced lie, in any case.

The West German press (including "Die Welt") had at least a few good reasons for spreading these stories. Firstly, the potatoes which the old lady in West Germany bought for her sister cost twice as much money in West Germany as they do in the GDR; living costs were climbing steadily in West Germany in July.

And then, on August 1st, the first stage in the big new rent increase went into effect in West Germany and West Berlin. Thousands stood on line in West Berlin alone in the hopes of getting a very limited "financial aid" for the needy to help pay their higher rents. It seems there are all sorts of queues. It is handy, therefore, if the newspapers in West Germany and West Berlin can say — "Do you think that you have it bad? Just think of all those hungry people across the border!"

But why the UPI man spread this very thin story from California to Australia is another question. I wonder if he will be so alert when the GDR has its next big wage increase or price cut?

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